

Grounds Keeping



The Grounds Keeping training program is designed to meet the entry-level workforce needs of any business that employs grounds keeping, landscaping, and/or plant nursery workers.

Expectations & Requirements

While on the job, you will be expected to display the following traits at all times:

- Punctuality and dependability
- Attention to detail and accuracy
- Cooperation
- Ability to actively listen
- Capacity to communicate effectively
- Self-control

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Use hand tools, such as shovels, rakes, pruning saws, saws, hedge or brush trimmers, or axes.
- Operate vehicles or powered equipment, such as mowers, tractors, twin-axle vehicles, snow blowers, chain-saws, electric clippers, sod cutters, or pruning saws.
- Water lawns, trees, or plants, using portable sprinkler systems, hoses, or watering cans.
- Prune or trim trees, shrubs, or hedges, using shears, pruners, or chain saws.
- Mix and spray or spread fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides onto grass, shrubs, or trees, using hand or automatic sprayers or spreaders.
- Care for established lawns by mulching, aerating, weeding, removing thatch, or trimming around flowerbeds, walks or walls.
- Gather and remove litter.
- Trim or pick flowers and clean flower beds.
- Plant seeds, bulbs, foliage, flowering plants, grass, ground covers, trees, or shrubs and apply mulch for protection, using gardening tools.
- Rake, mulch, and compost leaves.
- Use irrigation methods to adjust the amount of water consumption and to prevent waste.
- Provide proper upkeep of sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, fountains, planters, burial sites, or other grounds features.
- Shovel snow from walks, driveways, or parking lots and spread salt in those areas.
- Maintain irrigation systems, including winterizing the systems and starting them up in spring.
- Care for natural turf fields, making sure the underlying soil has the required composition to allow proper drainage and to support the grasses used on the fields.
- Haul or spread topsoil or spread straw over seeded soil to hold soil in place.

Grounds Keeping



Minimum Entrance Requirements

Students wishing to enter the Grounds Keeping training program are not required to meet minimum academic levels in reading or math. However, students should be able to walk, stand, bend, stoop, kneel, extend, and twist for moderate to prolonged periods of time, as well as be able to lift and carry 50lbs frequently and 75-100lbs occasionally. They should also be able to tolerate temperature extremes and exposure to dust, allergens, noise, and chemicals. They should have good communication skills, vision, and functional use of hands, arms, prosthetics, and/or arm stick devices.

Course Duration and Sequence

Students wishing to complete the Grounds Keeping portion of the program should expect to spend approximately 2 months or 200 hours in training. Students wishing to enter the Nursery Worker portion of the program should expect to spend approximately 5 months or 600 hours in training.

Please note that, with the addition of ancillary services as well as individual pace, student completion timelines will vary.

Career Options

Upon completion of the Grounds Keeping training program, students will be ready to obtain entry-level employment in either of the following areas: Landscaper/Grounds Keeper or Nursery Worker.

- **Landscaper/Grounds Keeper:** Waters lawns, trees, or plants, using portable sprinkler systems, hoses, or watering cans; gather and remove litter; prunes or trims trees, shrubs, or hedges, using shears, pruners, or chain saws; plants seeds, bulbs, foliage, flowering plants, grass, ground covers, trees, or shrubs and applies mulch for protection, using gardening tools; mows or edges lawns, using power mowers or edgers; shovels snow from walks, driveways, or parking lots and spread salt in those areas; cares for established lawns by mulching, aerating, weeding, grubbing, removing thatch, or trimming or edging around flower beds, walks, or walls; trims or picks flowers and cleans flower beds; and performs other duties as required.

- **Nursery Worker:** Plants, sprays, weeds, fertilizes, and waters plants, shrubs, and trees, using hand tools and gardening tools; harvests plants, and transplants or pots and labels them; cleans work areas, and maintains grounds and landscaping; sells and delivers plants and flowers to customers; sows grass seed, or plants plugs of grass; regulates greenhouse conditions, and indoor and outdoor irrigation systems; provides information and advice to the public regarding the selection, purchase, and care of products; maintains and repairs irrigation and climate control systems; digs, cuts, and transplants seedlings, cuttings, trees, and shrubs; records information about plants and plant growth; maintains inventory; and performs other duties as required.

All students enrolled in the Grounds Keeping training program will have the opportunity to obtain the 10- Hour OSHA Agriculture Safety certification.

Upon completing the Grounds Keeping training program, students may go on to work in a multitude of places including, but not limited to schools and institutions, landscaping companies, greenhouses, hospitals, state and local parks and recreations areas, etc.

